

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A dialyzing apparatus comprising:

a dialyzer which removes water from blood of a patient at a pre-set water-remove rate;

an autonomic-nerve-activity-related-information obtaining device which obtains autonomic-nerve-activity-related information that is related to an activity of an autonomic nerve of the ~~patient; and~~ patient, the autonomic-nerve-activity-related information being any one of (a) a low-frequency component of fluctuations of blood-pressure values of the patient, (b) a high-frequency component of fluctuations of pulse-period values of the patient, or (c) a pressoreceptor-reflex sensitivity defined as a ratio of one of the low-frequency component and the high-frequency component to the other of the two components;

a target-water-remove-rate determining means for determining a target-water-remove rate based on autonomic-nerve-activity-related information obtained by the autonomic-nerve-activity-related-information obtaining device; and

a water-remove-rate display device which displays ~~a-the~~ target water-remove rate ~~based on the autonomic nerve activity related information obtained by the autonomic-nerve activity related information obtaining device-determined by the target-water-remove-rate determining means;~~

wherein the water-remove rate of the dialyzer is set by an operator to a desired water-remove rate in view of the target water-remove rate displayed by the water-remove-rate display device.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A dialyzing apparatus comprising:

a dialyzer which removes water from blood of a patient at a pre-set water-remove rate;

an autonomic-nerve-activity-related-information obtaining device which obtains autonomic-nerve-activity-related information that is related to an activity of an autonomic nerve of the ~~patient; and~~ patient, the autonomic-nerve-activity-related information being any one of (a) a low-frequency component of fluctuations of blood-pressure values of the patient, (b) a high-frequency component of fluctuations of pulse-period values of the

patient, or (c) a pressoreceptor-reflex sensitivity defined as a ratio of one of the low-frequency component and the high-frequency component to the other of the two components;

a water-remove-rate changing means for changing the pre-set water-remove rate to a target water-remove rate based on the autonomic-nerve-activity-related information obtained by the autonomic-nerve-activity-related-information obtaining device; Device; and
a dialyzer control device which operates the dialyzer at the target water-remove rate established by the water-remove-rate changing means.

4. (Original) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a target-water-remove-rate determining means for determining the target water-remove rate based on the autonomic-nerve-activity-related information obtained by the autonomic-nerve-activity-related-information obtaining device, wherein the water-remove-rate changing means changes the pre-set water-remove rate to the target water-remove rate determined by the target-water-remove-rate determining means.

5. (Original) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines a target water-remove rate range based on the autonomic-nerve-activity-related information comprising at least one of a low-frequency component of fluctuations of blood-pressure values of the patient, a high-frequency component of fluctuations of pulse-period values of the patient, and a pressoreceptor-reflex sensitivity defined as a ratio of one of the low-frequency component and the high-frequency component to the other of the low-frequency component and the high-frequency component, and wherein the water-remove-rate changing means changes the pre-set water-remove rate to a value falling within the determined target water-remove-rate range.

6. (Original) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines a lower target water-remove rate range based on the autonomic-nerve-activity-related information comprising at least one of a greater low-frequency component of fluctuations of blood-pressure values of the patient, a smaller high-frequency component of fluctuations of pulse-period values of the patient, and a smaller pressoreceptor-reflex sensitivity of the patient.

7. (Original) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines, in a two-dimensional coordinate system which is defined by a first axis indicative of autonomic-nerve-activity-related information and a second axis indicative of water-remove rate, the target water-remove rate range based on the obtained autonomic-nerve-activity-related information according to a predetermined

relationship between autonomic-nerve-activity- related information and water-remove rate range.

8. (Currently Amended) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein~~claim 2, wherein~~ the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines a target water-remove rate range based on the autonomic-nerve-activity-related information comprising at least one of a low-frequency component of fluctuations of blood-pressure values of the patient, a high-frequency component of fluctuations of pulse-period values of the patient, and a pressoreceptor-reflex sensitivity defined as a ratio of one of the low-frequency component and the high-frequency component to the other of the low-frequency component and the high-frequency component, and wherein the water-remove-rate display device displays the determined target water-remove rate range.

9. (Original) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines a lower target water-remove rate corresponding to the autonomic-nerve-activity-related information comprising at least one of a smaller low-frequency component of fluctuations of blood-pressure values of the patient, a greater high-frequency component of fluctuations of pulse-period values of the patient, and a smaller pressoreceptor-reflex sensitivity of the patient.

10. (Currently Amended) A dialyzing apparatus according to ~~claim 2, wherein~~ claim 1, wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines, in a two-dimensional coordinate system which is defined by a first axis indicative of autonomic-nerve-activity- related information and a second axis indicative of water-remove rate, the target water-remove rate range based on the obtained autonomic-nerve-activity-related information according to a pre-determined relationship between autonomic-nerve-activity- related information and water-remove rate range.

11. (Currently Amended) A dialyzing apparatus according to ~~claim 2, further~~ claim 1, further comprising:

a water-remove-rate setting device which is operable by an operator to set a desired water-remove rate in view of the target water-remove rate displayed by the water- remove-rate display device; and

a dialyzer control device which operates the dialyzer at the desired water-remove rate set through the water-remove- rate setting device.

12. (Original) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:
a water-remove-rate setting device which is operable by an operator to set a desired water-remove rate that falls within the target water-remove rate range displayed by the water-remove-rate display device; and

a dialyzer control device which operates the dialyzer at the desired water-remove rate set through the water-remove-rate setting device.

13. (Canceled)

14. (New) A dialyzing apparatus comprising:

a dialyzer which removes water from blood of a patient at a pre-set water-removal rate;

an autonomic-nerve-activity-related-information obtaining device which obtains autonomic-nerve-activity-related-information that is related to an activity of an autonomic nerve of the patient;

a target-water-remove-rate determining means for determining a target-water-remove rate range based on the autonomic-nerve-activity-related-information comprising at least one of a low-frequency component of fluctuations of blood-pressure values of the patient, a high-frequency component of fluctuations of pulse-period values of the patient, and a pressoreceptor-reflex sensitivity defined as a ratio of one of the low-frequency component and the high-frequency component to the other of the low-frequency component and the high frequency component; and

a water-remove-rate display device which displays the target water-remove-rate range determined by the target-water-remove-rate determining means;

wherein the water-remove rate of the dialyzer is set by an operator to a desired value in view of the target water-remove-rate range displayed by the water-remove-rate display device.

15. (New) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines a lower target water-remove rate corresponding to the autonomic-nerve-activity-related information comprising at least one of a smaller low-frequency component of fluctuations of blood-pressure values of the patient, a greater high-frequency component of fluctuations of pulse-period values of the patient, and a smaller pressoreceptor-reflex sensitivity of the patient.

16. (New) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising:

a water-remove-rate setting device which is operable by an operator to set a desired water-remove rate that falls within the target water-remove rate range displayed by the water-remove-rate display device; and

a dialyzer control device which operates the dialyzer at the desired water-remove rate set through the water-remove-rate setting device.

17. (New) A dialyzing apparatus comprising:

a dialyzer which removes water from blood of a patient at a pre-set water-remove rate;

an autonomic-nerve-activity-related-information obtaining device which obtains autonomic-nerve-activity-related information that is related to an activity of an autonomic nerve of the patient;

a target-water-remove-rate determining means for determining, in a two-dimensional coordinate system which is defined by a first axis indicative of autonomic-nerve-activity-related information and a second axis indicative of water-remove rate, the target water-remove rate range based on the obtained autonomic-nerve-activity-related information according to a per-determined relationship between autonomic-nerve-activity-related information and water-remove rate range; and

a water-remove-rate display device displays the target-water-remove rate range determined by the target-water-remove-rate determining means;

wherein the water-remove rate of the dialyzer is set by an operator to a desired value in view of the target water-remove rate range displayed by the water-remove-rate display device.

18. (New) A dialyzing apparatus comprising:

a dialyzer which removes water from blood of a patient a pre-set water-remove rate;

an autonomic-nerve-activity-related-information obtaining device which obtains autonomic-nerve-activity-related information that is related to an activity of an autonomic nerve of the patient; and

a target-water-remove-rate determining means for determining a target water-remove rate range based on the autonomic-nerve-activity-related information comprising at least one of a low-frequency component of fluctuations of blood-pressure values of the patient, a high-frequency component of fluctuations of pulse-period values of the patient, and

a pressoreceptor-reflex sensitivity defined a ratio of one of the low-frequency component and the high-frequency component to the other of the low-frequency component and the high-frequency component;

a water-remove-rate changing means which changes the pre-set water-remove rate to a value falling within the determined target water-remove-rate range; and

a dialyzer control device which operates the dialyzer at the target water-remove rate established by the water-remove-rate changing means.

19. (New) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines a lower target water-remove rate range based on the autonomic-nerve-activity-related information comprising at least one of a greater low-frequency component of fluctuations of blood-pressure values of the patient, a smaller high-frequency component of fluctuations of pulse-period values of the patient, and a smaller pressoreceptor-reflex sensitivity of the patient.

20. (New) A dialyzing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the target-water-remove-rate determining means determines, in a two-dimensional coordinate system which is defined by a first axis indicative of autonomic-nerve-activity-related information and a second axis indicative of water-remove rate, the target water-remove rate range based on the obtained autonomic-nerve-activity-related information according to a predetermined relationship between autonomic-nerve-activity-related information and water-remove rate range.